

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

SBMC Corp

Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex)

SBMC Significantly Improves Productivity

Client Profile:

SBMC has been a metal fabrication supplier since 1976. The company builds networking and computer boxes, machine parts and frames for medical and semiconductor capital equipment makers, and provides assembly services. SBMC is located in an 80,000 square foot building in Santa Clara and employs 65 people.

Situation:

SBMC faced the challenge of tripling production in order to meet government mandated schedules for its largest customer. Hiring more employees and moving to a three-shift production schedule would not achieve the capacity improvements or cost reduction goals of the organization. The Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (Manex), a NIST MEP network affiliate, had earlier helped SBMC improve plant floor utilization, so it was natural to turn to Manex for a complete makeover of manufacturing process flow using Lean Manufacturing techniques.

Solution:

Manex surveyed SBMC key managers and supervisors to determine SBMC's requirements. They identified specific floor productivity issues and performance metrics. They also conducted Lean Manufacturing training for floor personnel, supervisors and management. During the one week Kaizen blitz, Manex led the team in identifying 35 ways to improve the process flow in order to meet their customer's requirements. The suggestions were immediately implemented, and the results were dramatic.

Results:

- * Increased productivity by 67 percent.
- * Reduced Work-in-Process by 55 percent.
- * Decreased costs by 60 percent.
- * Increased throughput 2.5 times.
- * Reduced floor space by 70 percent.
- * Improved teamwork, communication and employee morale

Testimonial:

"Working with Manex provided terrific Lean Manufacturing training for all my employees. Everyone who participated developed a sense of ownership in their solutions which contributed greatly to the significant improvements we immediately saw in productivity, lead time, cost reduction and floor space requirements."

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Dick Brown, President